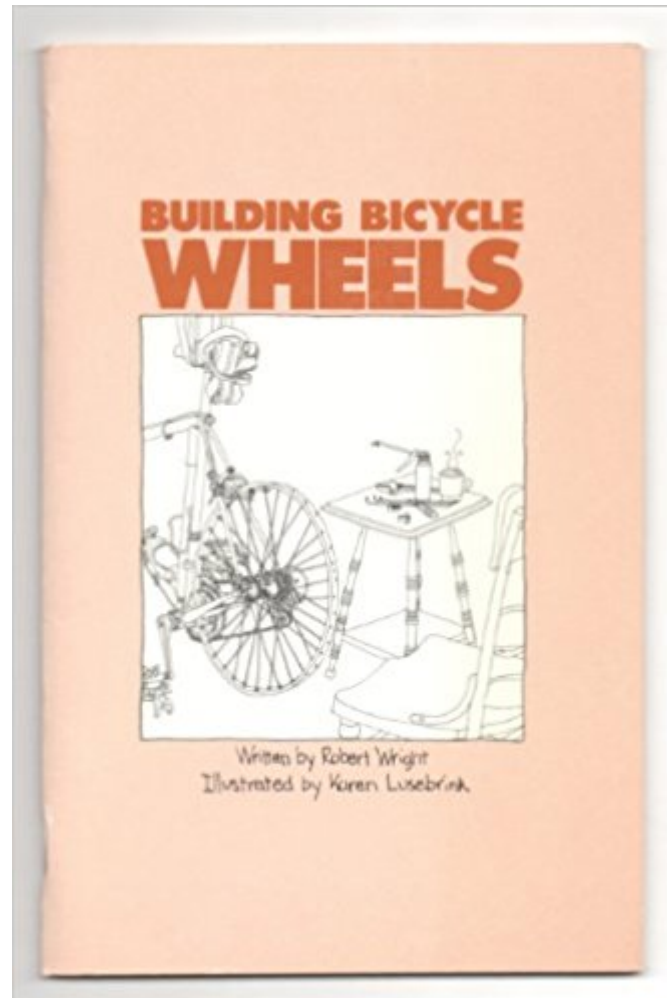




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Building Bicycle Wheels



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1977 Anderson World

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Customer Reviews

1977 Anderson World

This is a hands-on practical guide on how to build different types of bicycle wheels; not too technical, no complicated math involved. I would recommend it as complementary literature to Jobst Brandt's "The Bicycle Wheel" to everyone who wants to become a wheel builder. It doesn't cover calculations for 'from scratch' projects (i.e. spoke lengths) but since nowadays there are online calculators available out there we can live with that. Those who only need to true a wheel from time to time or replace a spoke set don't necessarily have to get this booklet, IMHO. There are some caveats (therefore the 4 stars): This booklet was written in 1977. I got the 1982 reprint. So it doesn't cover the new types of rear hub and transmission - only the older type 5-6 speed freewheel types from that time. Also, the materials for rims and especially spokes might have been improved over the years; and of course carbon fiber is not covered at all. The explanations sometimes are somewhat long-winded, so the reader might have to "pick out the raisins of the cake". Furthermore, you pay a collector's price for this booklet, since it's out of print and not available anymore. Nevertheless I am happy with the purchase and recommend it for the biker's technical library; and truly wish + hope that it will be re-edited some day with the necessary updates - and made available in Kindle Format.

I needed a book that makes the building of a bicycle wheel easy. This is the one I've been looking for. The author assumes that you have never done it before and takes you through the process step by step. He explains the technical aspects like spokes, lacing patterns, hubs, and much more. With or without a truing stand. It is only 46 pages long, and is really all I need. None of the confusing advanced technical stuff in some of the other books I have seen. The copyright is 1977, back when wheels were 27 inch, but that doesn't matter for me. I just want to build some 20 inch wheels for a low rider show bike. I love it, and recommend it for the beginner like me.

This is the third copy of this book I have bought. They keep walking off. I got the first one in the 1970s. I have used it as a guide and later as "moral support" for the construction of scores of bicycle wheels. It is well written, informative, and, if you follow the instructions and try to understand what you are doing and why, you can build some elegant, functional, round bicycle wheels. It is a very satisfying feeling to actually roll off on a set of wheels you have made from 40 to 72 spokes, a matching number of nipples, two hubs, two rims and a WHOLE bunch of good karma. Buy this book and have at it!

I bought this to replace my original copy from the early '70's. It is still the best, easiest instruction for learning to build bicycle wheels. Since it is out of print, I got a good used copy at a reasonable price. Service from and the vendor were very good, no problems or complaints. I rate the transaction 5 out of 5.

This book provides a different insight into wheel building from the classic by Brandt. It is hard to find, but worth the hunt.

A little dated but still quite useful and inexpensive.

This is a thin tome on how to build a wheel. it is just a few pages and if you pay more than \$2 for it you got taken to the cleaners.

I have built wheels in bike shops for 30 years. This is the clearest and best illustrated guide to wheelbuilding ever and has been reprinted several times. There are two aspects to building wheels: theory and practice. The practice of assembling wheels was traditionally taught as an apprenticeship

to a mechanic working in a bike shop. The only way to learn wheel building was to work in a shop with someone who could show you wheelbuilding. In straight-forward language supplemented with clear line-drawings this book shows you how to build wheels. In these days of CAD drawings, the quaint pen-and-ink illustrations are the best and clearest I have seen in any book about wheelbuilding and a big part of what makes this such a good book. People who could build wheels used to be more common. A cottage-industry has grown to fill the need of people wanting to learn wheelbuilding. While there are a number of books, web-pages and movies that show you how to build wheels there are two different ways to build a wheel; the Schwinn method where you build one side at a time and Brandt's method where you install all the pulling spokes on both flanges followed by all the pushing spokes. The Schwinn method is easiest to keep straight and best for exotic lacing patterns or non-standard hubs. Brandt's method is awkward and harder to keep spoke nipples from unscrewing during the wheel building process. Brandt suggests using the Schwinn method for non-standard hubs. This book shows you the Schwinn method. Wheelbuilding theory is difficult to explain because there are so many different schools of thought on what makes a wheel collapse and why spokes break. It was traditionally explained in the process of learning wheel assembly. Most explanations of wheelbuilding are confusing to follow because they attempt to explain the theory of how the wheel works and why their method of building wheels is the best while they are explaining how to build a wheel. Most people what to learn how to build a wheel while theory is beyond most people just starting out. This book uses the classical explanation of how a tension-spoke wheel supports a load that has been used for a hundred years without getting into the mathematics of the debate. There is plenty of time to learn theories after you learn how to build wheels. There are a number of things missing you can find out after you learn how to build wheels. This book was printed before Brandt's theory that spokes fail from fatigue and increasing the spoke's tension improved fatigue resistance. The book does not discuss the use of tensiometers, which weren't around yet, or the traditional method of plucking to tension spokes. It does not discuss spoke wrenches or how to tie & soldering spokes or cork rims. It does not have a way to calculate spoke length. You can use an online spoke length calculator to find the spoke length and Brandt will help you can pick up theory. This book has the instructions you need to build a wheel.

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